



A CLEAR VIEW of Torrance is afforded local residents on recent winter mornings. The above photograph, taken from atop the city's water tower, looks north toward Los Angeles.

## Hints to Prepare Gardens for Winter

December's early days are a time for pause and appraisal in the garden. Those of us who care are looking around for last-minute ways to batten down the hatch for winter. Not that winter is anything to fear in this Golden State, but we do have our blustery days before the first daffodils and hyacinths start to bloom.

One thing especially that needs attention in California is the matter of proper drainage in garden beds. Many plants are so sensitive to poor drainage that they will not survive even a few weeks of exceedingly wet feet. The lovely Transvaal Daisy is one of these. Be sure its crown is above the soil level and be sure the soil is in such a setting as to insure fast run-off of water.

Winter annual of all kinds — stocks, violas, pansies, calendulas — are also susceptible to waterlogging. They are perfectly willing to oblige by blooming if drainage is right, so check carefully to see that it is. If water stands inordinately long after a rain, or if the soil fails to become workable a couple of days after it rains, chances are its drainage needs improving.

**Raise Bed**  
How does one go about this? There are many involved ways and one very simple way. The California Association of Nurserymen suggests you follow the latter, which is merely to raise the bed a few inches to permit water to drain off easily.

You can do this quickly by using redwood header boards and surrounding the bed you want to raise. Add new soil and manure or leaf mold to build up the soil level. Bricks, rocks from nature's garden, broken concrete or railroad ties are all good ways to head up a bed to be raised for better drainage.

**Stakes and Ties**  
Also, you should make a careful check around the garden to see that stakes and ties are secure. Young saplings should be well supported by study stakes if they are to avoid possible

damage from winter wind and rain. Standard roses should like-wise be guarded against the weather, and long canes of climbing roses should be tied securely to fence to trellis or whatever supports them. A good wind is apt to whip loose canes around and snap them.

By mid-December you can start the dormant season spray program and dormant season pruning. It's early to prune roses and fuchsias, but you can start on grape vines and many fruit trees and shade trees. Roses can be pruned in January and fuchsias by the first of February.

Be sure to plant some perennials for bloom next spring and summer. The earlier you plant them, the better plants you will have. Canterbury Bells, Foxgloves, Pinks, Coral Bells, Sweet Delphiniums — you name them, and your local C.A.N. nursery will probably have them in flats this month. We'd not want to let winter overtake us by too much before getting these potential beauties into the ground.

**Annuals**  
As for annuals, you can still get some winter mileage from calendulas, violas, pansies and the Fairy Primrose if you hurry and plant them. The weather will play a big part in success or failure with these at this late date, but if "normal" conditions prevail in the state, you can expect some color from the above before winter runs its course.

We'd plant the lovely little cyclamen, too, if winter color is something we couldn't do without. Truth to tell, we've already planted it in our garden. How about yours? It's not too late, by any means. Cyclamen planted now will bloom well into spring in an inexhaustible succession.

**Fall Clean Up**  
And how about that final fall cleanup? Are there still matted leaves in garden smother plant life beneath them — or harbor overwinter insects and fungus disease. There shouldn't be, though they probably are.



RECEIVING AWARDS presented by the Carson Optimist Club are Linda Gilmore and Tom Cochran. The awards were given to the students for their excellent citizenship and scholarship records. Carson district Optimist Club president Leslie Panter presented the awards in the office of Carson High principal Bernard J. Donahue.

## Optimists Give Awards to Carson Students

The annual Carson Optimists Club Award was presented recently in the office of Bernard J. Donahue, Carson High principal, to two of Carson's finest students.

Carson's faculty and honor clubs chose to award Tom Cochran and Linda Gilmore on the basis of their excellent citizenship and scholarship records. They received trophies and certificates which will be on display at Carson High until the June awards assembly, at which time they will be taken home by the students.

Presenting the awards was Mr. Leslie Panter, Carson District Optimist Club president. Mr. Panter stated, "Every year the Optimists

Club designates one week to be Youth Appreciation Week. During this time worthy youths are honored with various awards, such as this."

The Optimists Club, a nation-wide organization, is formed and supported by businessmen. Mr. Panter said, "Our chief aim is to help youths in every possible way. That is why our motto reads 'Friend of the Youth'."

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## Lomita Area Gets Street Repairs

Supervisor Burton W. Chace today reported a \$3,600 allocation for improvement of a portion of Walnut Street from Lomita Blvd. to 253rd St. in the Lomita District.

The project will include reconstruction of portions of the existing highway and a new four-foot wide section northerly of 252nd St.

A 12-foot section will be resurfaced following installation of a cross-flow gutter at 252nd Street, Chace added.

The Supervisor urged motorists drive with caution in the construction area.

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## League Letter Incorporation

A hundred citizens of Torrance, who own property in Lomita have been warned by letter from Lomita Civic League of the proposed incorporation of Lomita as a "city of the lowest class." Examination of tax figures for all the communities of the county, as published in the Hearld-Examiner of Nov. 1, shows that glowing promises have come to nought in the "cities" which have incorporated in recent years.

Only the City of Commerce, which is a commercial area rather than a residential one, shows a tax rate as low as in the unincorporated area of the county. Nine small incorporations have a tax rate higher than that of Torrance. Lomita undoubtedly would have, since it covers less than two sections of land and has no industry, the LCL letter said.

Lomita has always been free from smog and free from local politics, therefore a good place to own property," the league states. Incorporation would bring nothing which the county does not provide now. All of the little incorporations have had the same sources of funds which Lomita would have. Most of them have some industry.

"We are trying to keep the tax rate down to the present rate in unincorporated areas, and to keep our present impartial, impersonal county government," the letter concluded. "We need the help of Torrance people who have a stake in Lomita."



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miles, whichever comes first, 2) the engine oil filter replaced and the carburetor air filter cleaned every second oil change and dry type carburetor air filter element replaced every 32,000 miles, 3) the closed crankcase vent system cleaned and serviced every 8,000 miles, and 4) the transmission, transfer case, driving axle and sealed-type universal joint lubricants changed every 20,000 miles. The foregoing services must be performed more often when reasonably required due to severe dust or regular "stop and go" operation. Every 6 months the owner must furnish to such a dealer evidence of performance of the required service, and request the dealer to certify (1) receipt of such evidence and (2) the truck's then current mileage.

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